

## **Washington Update**

January 31, 2005

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### **1. NASEMSD Names New Directors to AEMS Board**

NASEMSD appointed two new directors to serve on the Advocates for EMS Board for the term expiring Dec. 31, 2006: Fergus Laughridge and Shawn Rogers. Laughridge has served as the director of the Nevada State Health Division, EMS Program since 1999. He has more than 25 years of experience providing and overseeing emergency medical care in various locations across the United States. Rogers is director of the EMS Division of the Oklahoma State Department of Health, where he supervises a staff of eight, working both to develop the state EMS system and apply state regulations to the EMS industry. Advocates for EMS was founded as a not-for-profit organization by the NASEMSD and the National Association of EMS Physicians to promote emergency medical services, educate elected and appointed officials and the public on issues of importance to EMS, monitor and influence EMS legislation and

regulatory activity, and raise awareness among decision-makers on issues of importance to EMS. For more information, visit <http://www.advocatesforems.org>.

## **2. Emergency Interoperability Consortium Announces Agreement with DHS to Promote Data Sharing During Emergencies**

The Emergency Interoperability Consortium (EIC) announced that it has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to promote the development and proliferation of data sharing standards for emergency response. The agreement establishes an alliance between the organizations to jointly promote the design, development, release, and use of XML standards to help solve data sharing problems commonly encountered during emergency operations. By working together, DHS and EIC believe that government and industry can more quickly and cost-effectively bridge the data sharing gap between organizations that must be able to interoperate in response to the natural and man-made hazards that form the core of the DHS mission. For more information on EIC, visit <http://www.eic.org>.

## **3. State EMS Directors Invited to Participate in NREMT First Responder**

Item Writing Meetings The National Registry of EMTs is looking for state directors to participate in First Responder Item Writing Meetings. One meeting is the first weekend in April, the second will be the last weekend in April. Both meetings will be held in Columbus and will be held all day on Friday and Saturday and during Sunday morning. All expenses are paid by the Registry. All meals are provided. Anyone willing to participate should contact Rob Wagoner at [rob@nremt.org](mailto:rob@nremt.org) <mailto:rob@nremt.org>.

## **4. IOM Schedules Next Meeting for the Future of Emergency Care Project**

The last round of meetings in the fall of 2004 for the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Future of Emergency Care project was very successful. Presentations from the open session now are posted at <http://www.iom.edu/emergencycare>. Staff and membership are working to prepare for the next meeting scheduled from March 2-4, 2005, in Irvine, Calif. The main committee, as well as the Hospital-based Emergency Care, Pediatric Emergency Care, and Prehospital Emergency Medical Services Subcommittees, will meet. A brief open session will be held from 8:00 am-1:00 pm on Thursday, March 3. Anyone interested in attending the open session should send complete contact information to Anisha Dharshi at [adharshi@nas.edu](mailto:adharshi@nas.edu) <mailto:adharshi@nas.edu> or call (202) 334-2711 by Wednesday, Feb. 23. A draft agenda and meeting information has been posted on the IOM Web site.

## **5. IOM Releases Report on the Public Health Risks of Disaster**

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) has released "Public Health Risks of Disaster: Communication, Infrastructure, and Preparedness," a workshop report that considers issues related to health risks of disasters, how the United States will meet these challenges, and what research and training priorities are needed to strengthen the response to health-related risks. The report is available at <http://www.nap.edu/books/0309095425/html>.

## **6. National Public Health Week Scheduled for April 4-10**

The national observance of National Public Health Week (NPHW) 2005 will be April 4-10, 2005. NPHW 2005 will focus on health aging and will be dedicated to empowering Americans to live stronger and longer. Last year's NPHW was the most successful in NPHW history with overwhelming grassroots participation around the country. NPHW 2004 was recognized in 50 states and had more than 230 partners and thirteen sponsors. Expectations for NPHW 2005 are even greater. More information on becoming a sponsor or partner is available on the American Public Health Association's Web site at <http://www.apha.org>. Logos and posters may be downloaded at <http://www.apha.org/nphw/toolkit/05-toolkit.cfm>.

## **7. USFA Course Prepares EMS Responders for Multiple Casualty Events**

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) is offering a new online course designed to help emergency medical service (EMS) personnel respond more effectively when faced with a multiple casualty incident (MCI). An MCI can occur as the result of many situations, such as a transportation accident, a building collapse, a civil disturbance, a severe weather event, or a terrorist attack, to name a few. The new independent study course, EMS Operations at Multi Casualty Incidents, Q157, is a four-hour, Web-based course that addresses preparedness planning; incident management; safe and efficient triage, treatment, and transportation of patients; and the de-escalation of the response. Access the course at the USFA's Virtual Campus at <http://www.training.fema.gov/>.

## **8. AAA Supports Draft Policy Statement on Drug Adulteration**

The American Ambulance Association (AAA) has adopted a policy statement on the recently issued chapter by the U.S. Pharmacopoeia on the storage of medications on ambulances. The AAA advocates the creation of policy and procedures for the storage of medications. It is the position of the AAA that all ambulance services use the approach outlined in the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services standard 203.03.04. To see the position paper, visit <http://www.the-aaa.org/OnCapitolhill/positionpapers.htm>.

#### **9. National Mass Fatalities Institute E-Newsletter Available**

The upcoming National Mass Fatalities Institute (NMFI) electronic newsletter will be distributed to a group of about 2,000 "opt-in" professionals interested in planning for response and handling of a mass fatalities incident. In the issue, NMFI is announcing the launch and availability of its new "On-Line Resource Center," a rich electronic library of more than 900 reference links to information needed or desired by those that must deal with mass fatality incident planning. NASEMSD members who are interested in receiving the electronic newsletter may sign up at <http://www.nmfi.org>.

#### **10. OSHA Releases Best Practices for Hospital-Based First Receivers of Victims**

OSHA has released a document that is designed to provide hospitals with practical information to assist them in developing and implementing emergency management plans that address the protection of hospital-based emergency department personnel during the receipt of contaminated victims from mass casualty incidents. For a copy of the report, visit [http://sss.osha.gov/dts/osta/bestpractices/firstreceivers\\_hospital.html](http://sss.osha.gov/dts/osta/bestpractices/firstreceivers_hospital.html).

#### **11. NACCHO-ASTHO 2005 Call for Concurrent Sessions and Speakers**

The NACCHO-ASTHO 2005 Joint Program Planning Committee invites submission of proposals for concurrent sessions and speakers for the upcoming NACCHO-ASTHO 2005 Joint Conference to be held July 12-15, 2005, in Boston, Mass. The theme of the conference is "Reversing the Tide: Promoting Policies and Programs to Advance the Nation's Health." Proposals must be submitted by March 4, 2005. Visit <http://www.astho.org> for more information and submittal forms.

#### **12. Safety in Numbers Seeks Input from Public Safety Organizations**

Safety in Numbers educates the public on the importance of large, easy-to-read address numbers, and how using them reduces the response time to an emergency. Safety In Numbers is endorsed by fire, police and EMS personnel. Currently, U.S. Representative Peter Hoekstra of Holland, Mich., is seeking input from public safety organizations on a bill that would proclaim every April as a national month to promote large, easy-to-read numbers in front of all U.S. homes. Those interested should contact The Honorable Peter Hoekstra, c/o John McDonald, 2234 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515-4404. Questions can be directed to Safety In Numbers' Dan Janik at [ldjanik@michweb.net](mailto:ldjanik@michweb.net) or [ldjanik@michweb.net](mailto:ldjanik@michweb.net).

### **13. Lessons Learned Information Sharing Web Site**

Available Lessons Learned Information Sharing (<<http://www.llis.gov>>) is continually updated with lessons learned, best practices, and good stories. New publications, resources, and after-action reports are posted frequently. All emergency response providers and homeland security officials from the local, state, and federal levels are eligible to join and registration is free. To join this resource, visit <<https://www.llis.dhs.gov/signup/index.cfm>>.

### **14. CAAS Announces New Board Appointment**

Jon M. Howell, CEO, Huntsville Emergency Medical Services, Inc., of Huntsville, Ala., has been named to the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) Board of Directors, replacing Troy Hogue, area manager, Rural/Metro, Syracuse, N.Y., as a representative of the American Ambulance Association. Howell began his EMS career as a dispatcher at Huntsville EMS, Inc. in 1984 where he also served as field paramedic/EMT until 1991, urban responder coordinator (1991-1993), assistant director (1993-1998), assistant director of finance (1998-2001), assuming his role as CEO of the organization in 2001. For more information, visit <<http://www.caas.org>>.

### **15. CAAS Re-accredits Five Agencies**

The Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) Panel of Commissioners granted re-accreditation to five agencies. Metropolitan Emergency Medical Services of Little Rock, Ark.; Northglenn Ambulance, Inc. of Northglenn, Co.; City of Henderson Fire Department, Henderson, Nev.; Tri-Hospital EMS of Port Huron, Mich.; and Loveland-Symmes Fire Department of Loveland, Ohio, were all granted a three-year re-accreditation. There currently are 93 CAAS-accredited agencies in 30 U.S. states and Nova Scotia, Canada, with 150 or more agencies now working on new applications. For more information, visit <<http://www.caas.org>>.

### **16. HealthAnalytics Hire Todd Hatley as CEO**

HealthAnalytics LLC, an Arizona-based EMS, fire and 9-1-1 consulting, performance and data analysis firm announced that it has hired Todd Hatley, MBA, MHA, REMT-P, CQM, as its chief operating officer. Todd will assume his new role on Feb. 1, 2005. Todd is currently an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He also is the executive director of the North Carolina Prehospital Medical Information System. For more information, visit <<http://www.healthanalytics.net>>.

**17. Upcoming Events** (\*\* denotes event is newly added)

**2005 National Health Policy Conference:** Post-Election 2004, What's in Store for Health Policy, Feb. 2-3, 2005, Renaissance Washington, D.C. Hotel. Information is available at <http://www.academyhealth.org/nhpc/>.

**2005 Trauma-EMS Systems Program Leadership Meeting,** Feb. 2-4, 2005, Key Bridge Marriott, Arlington, Va. Information will be provided closer to the meeting date.

**"Delivering Results: Improving Pregnancy & Birth," 2005 Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs Annual Conference,** Feb. 19-23, 2005, Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel, Washington, D.C. Information is available at <http://www.amchp.org/conference>.

**Homeland Defense Training Conference®:** Medical Planning and Operations in Support of Consequence Management: "Managing the Un-thinkable in the Era of Asymmetrical Threats" - Preparing Healthcare Professionals for New Challenges in the Medical Arena, Feb. 24-25, 2005, Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C. Information is available at [http://www.marketaccess.org/event\\_consmgmt.asp](http://www.marketaccess.org/event_consmgmt.asp).

**Emergency Medical Services Response to Hazardous Material Incidents or Acts of Terrorism,** March 18, 2005, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, Mass. Information is available at <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/ccpe/programs/EMSR.shtml>.

**EMS Today Conference and Exposition,** March 18-22, 2005, Philadelphia, Pa. Information is available at <http://www.emstodayconference.com> <http://www.amchp.org/conference>.

**\*\*Driving Government Performance:** Leadership Strategies that Produce Results, April 3-8, 2005, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Boston, Mass. Information is available at <http://www.ExecProg.org/DrivingGovernmentPerformance>.

**Injury and Violence in America:** Meeting Challenges, Sharing Solutions, May 9-11, 2005, Denver, Colo. Information is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/2005conference>.

**28th Annual Conference of the National Rural Health Association,** May 19-21, 2005, New Orleans, La. Information is available at <http://www.NRHArural.org/conf>.

**\*\*NACCHO-ASTHO 2005 Joint Conference:** "Reversing the Tide: Promoting Policies and Programs to Advance the Nation's Health", July 12-15, 2005, Boston, Mass. Information is available at <http://astho.org>.